

Drought Status and Outlook

Latest Drought Information Statement

April 8, 2022

National Weather Service Spokane

Severe and Extreme Drought for the Inland NW



U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

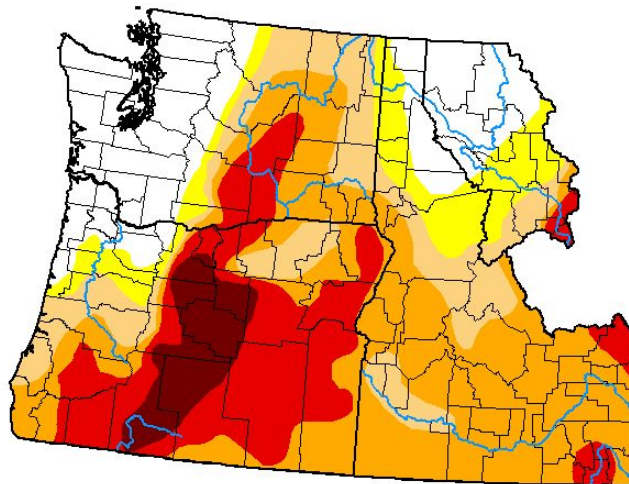
April 5, 2022

(Released Thursday, Apr. 7, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought expanded across central Washington while abnormally dry conditions increased across the Idaho Panhandle.

- Area of extreme (D3) drought stretched from the lower Columbia Basin across Grant county.
- Area of moderate (D2) drought from the Lewiston Clarkston Valley and upper Columbia Basin pushed into portions of the northern mountains.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.44	79.56	70.70	55.62	23.34	5.33
Last Week 03-29-2022	23.92	76.08	70.82	47.17	20.04	5.33
3 Months Ago 01-04-2022	15.92	84.08	75.97	48.26	22.13	6.50
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	15.92	84.08	75.97	48.26	22.13	6.50
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	93.35	84.83	57.49	24.06
One Year Ago 04-06-2021	38.21	61.79	34.70	17.02	4.95	0.53

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

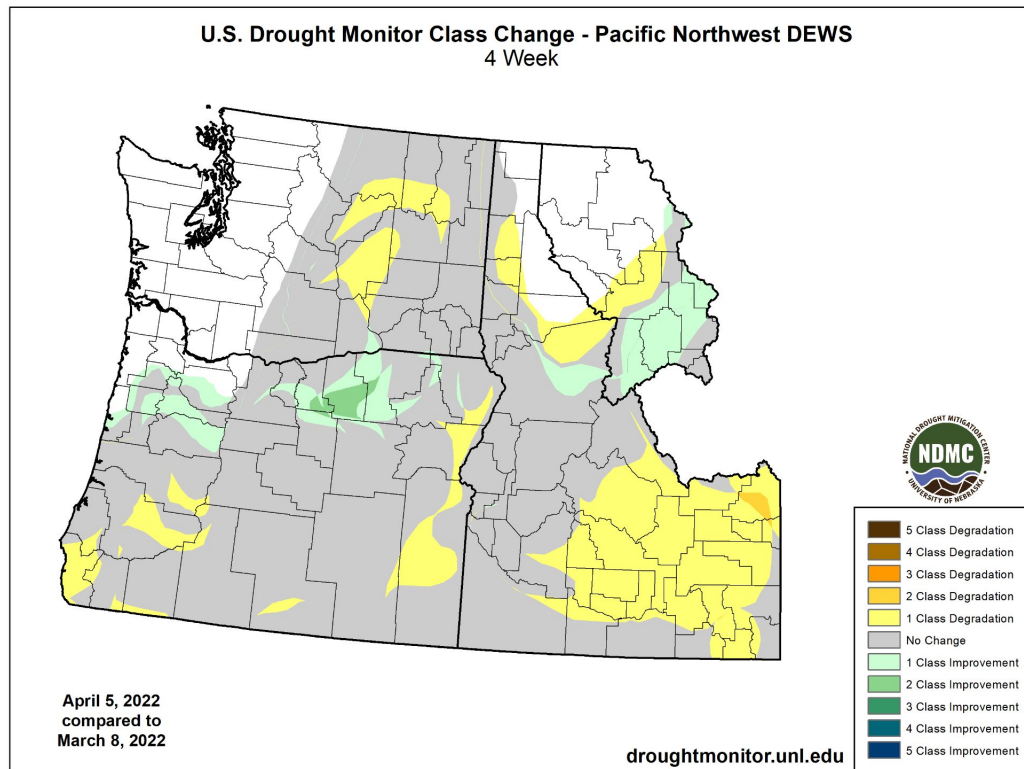
One Month Drought Change



Winter precipitation was close to normal near Cascade crest and the Panhandle mountains especially with the abundance of snow early in January and cooler than normal temperatures for February. This helped to curb drought conditions at the higher elevations.

Meanwhile below normal precipitation spanned across much of eastern Washington into the lowlands of north Idaho which has done little to overcome the long term precipitation deficits.

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>

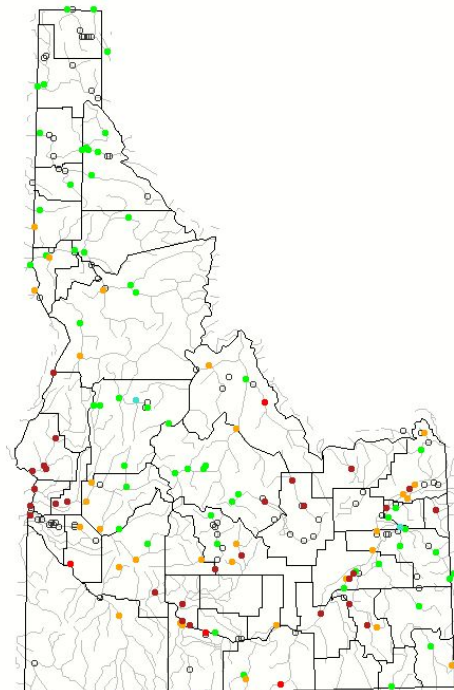
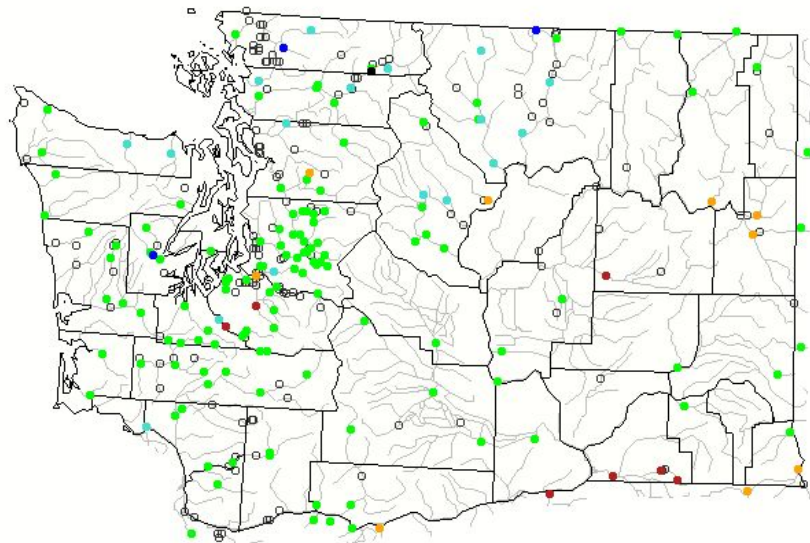


Drought Impacts - Streamflows



Friday, April 08, 2022 17:30ET

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The spring runoff and precipitation has supported near normal stream flows in most parts of eastern Washington and north Idaho. There are pockets of below normal stream flows across the parts of Columbia Basin, Spokane River Basin, and the lower Snake River Basin.

<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

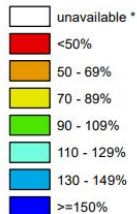
Drought Impacts - Mountain Snowpack



Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Apr 08, 2022

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

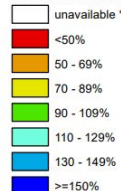


Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

Spokane

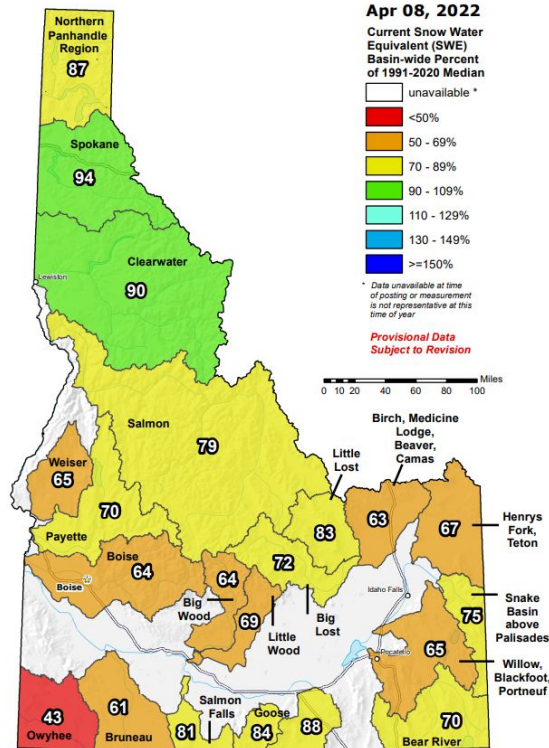
Apr 08, 2022

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



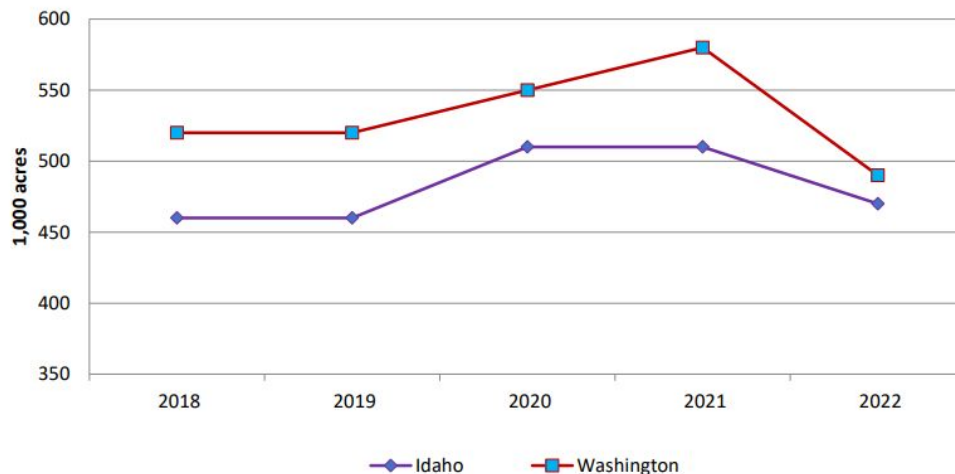
After an abundance of mountain at the start of the calendar year, the additional winter snow was less than normal and the mountain snow water equivalent gradually slipped below normal by March. Currently mountain snowpack spans from 70% of normal in southeast Washington to 95% of normal in the Idaho Panhandle.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

Drought Impacts - Agriculture



Spring Wheat Area Planted-Idaho and Washington:
2018-2021, and March Forecast 2022

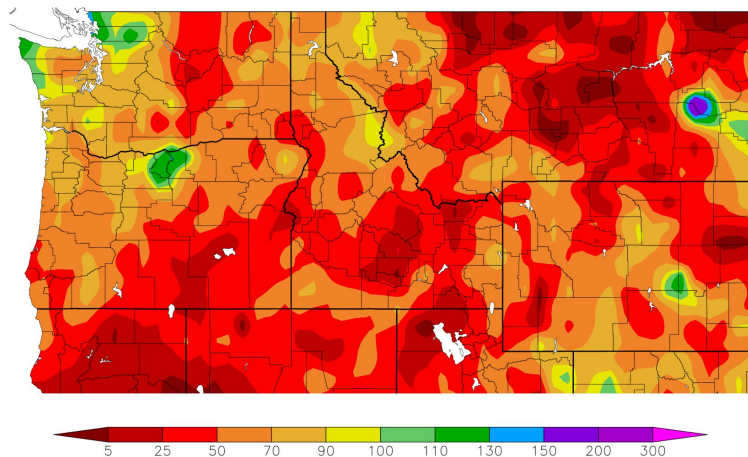


Despite the drier than normal conditions across the Inland Northwest, fields were being prepped and plowed for spring planting. Seeding has started in southeast Washington. Wheat looks good, but still needs additional moisture region-wide. Recent windy conditions have led to areas of blowing dust across parts of the Columbia Basin. Apples and pears were leafing out, and fruit buds were swelling in size. Irrigation districts released water into the canals, and fruit producers were in the process of removing weeds and debris from the canals. [nass.usda.gov/statics by State](https://nass.usda.gov/statics_by_State)

Last 30 Days



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/9/2022 – 4/7/2022

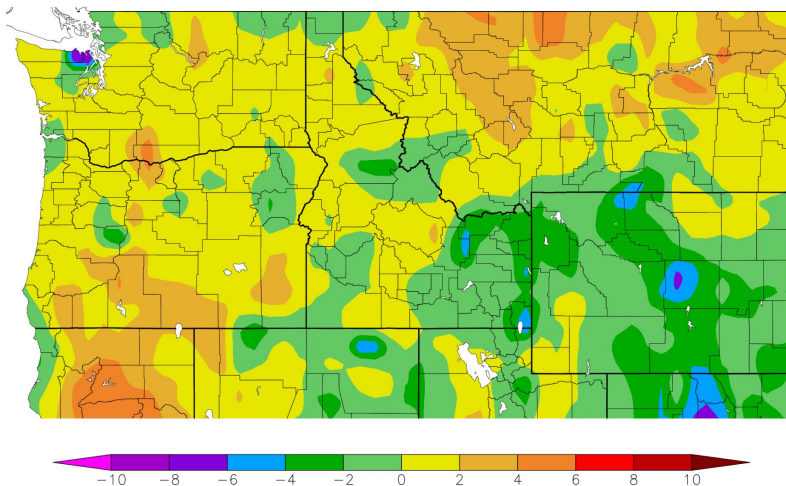


Generated 4/8/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

In the last month, precipitation has been below normal across the region, ranging from 50% of normal in the Columbia Basin to 90% of normal in the northern Idaho Panhandle.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/9/2022 – 4/7/2022



Generated 4/8/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

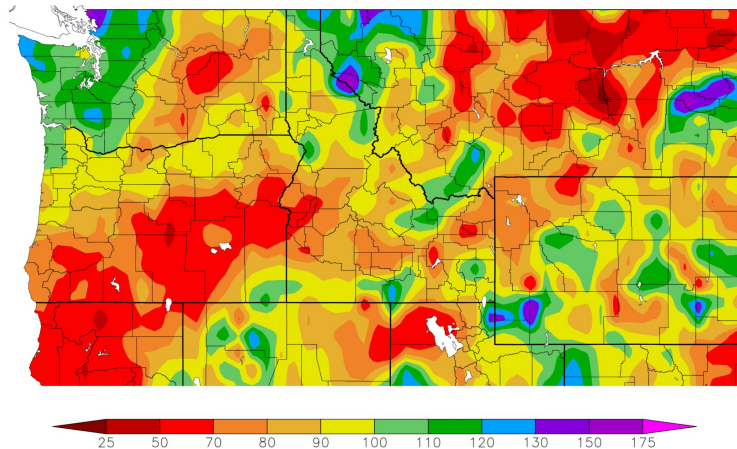
In the last month, temperatures have been mostly above normal across the Inland Northwest.

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

Water Year 2022



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2021 – 4/7/2022

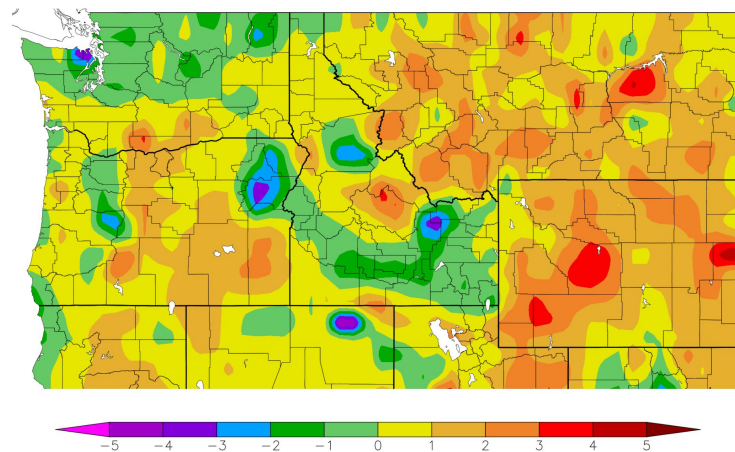


Generated 4/8/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Since October 1, 2021, precipitation has varied greatly. Above normal precipitation by 100% to 120% spanned near the crest of the northern Cascades and part of northern Idaho Panhandle. Meanwhile below normal precipitation of 70% to 90% can be found the rest of the Inland Northwest. Across the Columbia Basin, a pocket of 50% to 70% of normal resides.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2021 – 4/7/2022



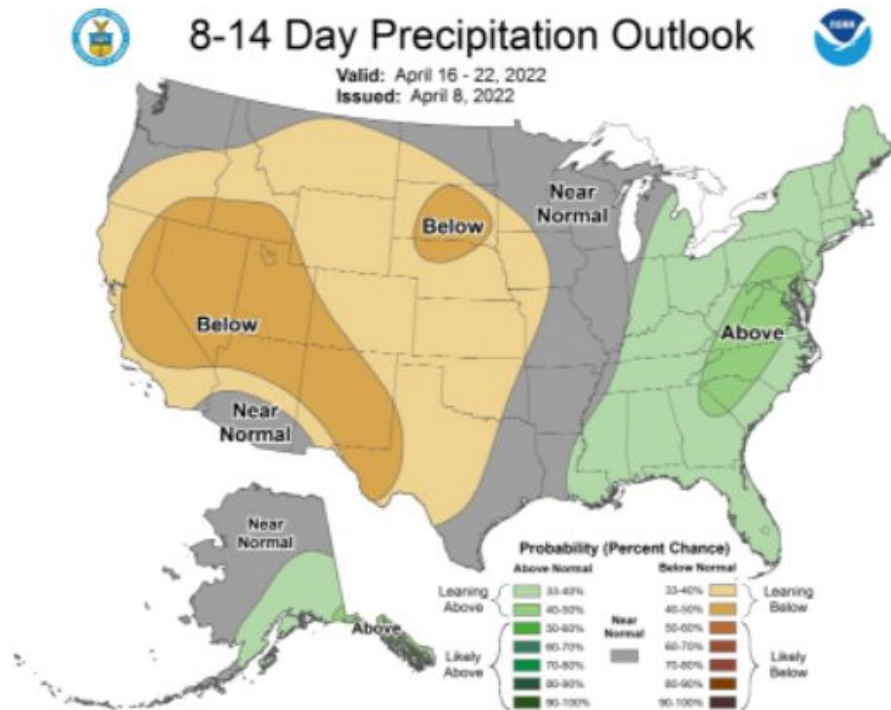
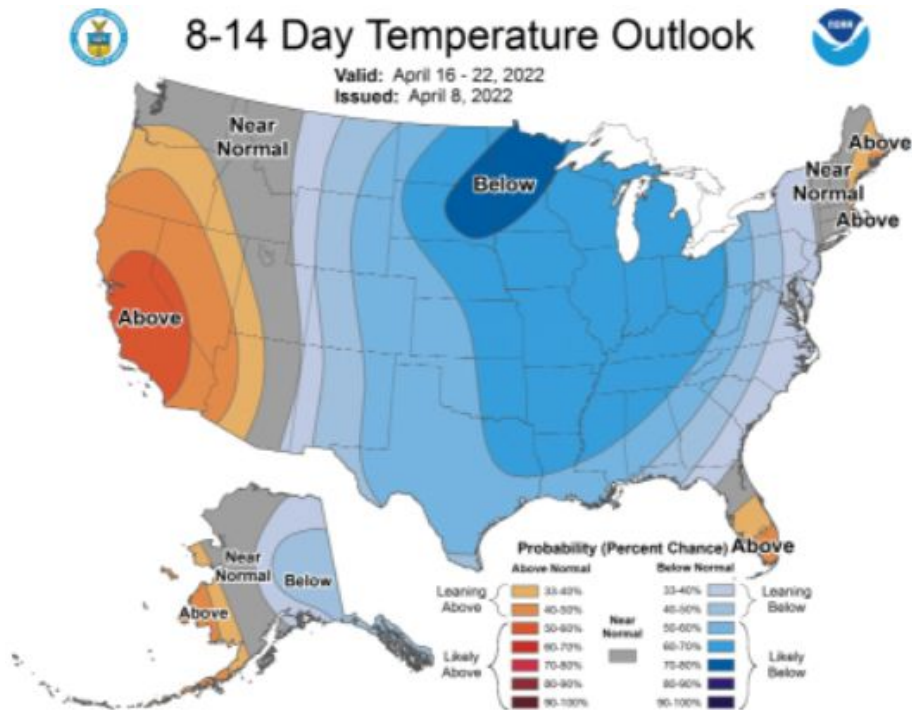
Generated 4/8/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Since October 1, 2021, temperatures have been near seasonal normals. Areas of above normal temperatures were found in parts of southeast Washington and the Idaho Panhandle, while areas of cooler than normal temperatures were seen in parts of north central Washington.

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

CPC Outlook ~ through much of April



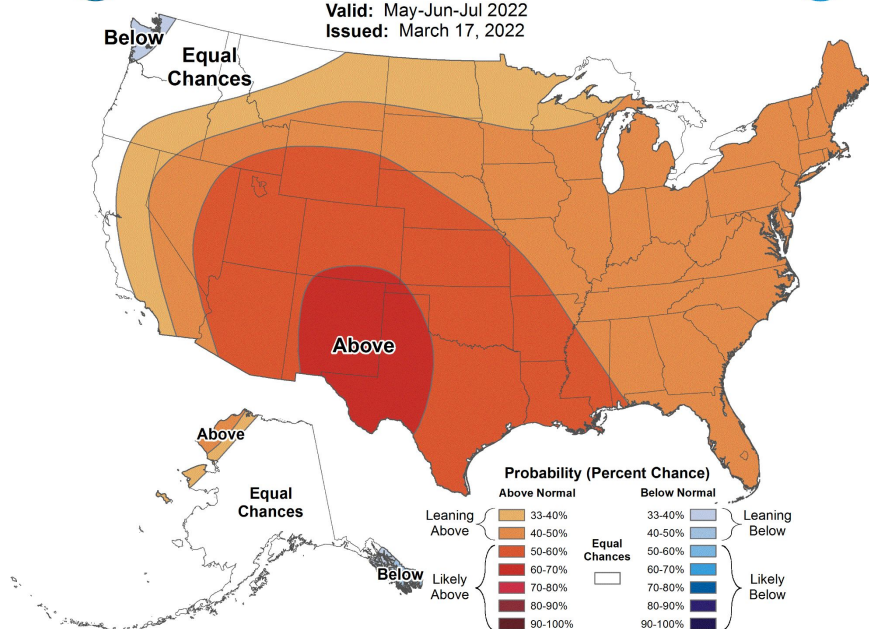
The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for the later half of April leans toward near to below normal temperatures with near seasonal precipitation. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

CPC Outlook ~ 3 Month Outlook - May through July



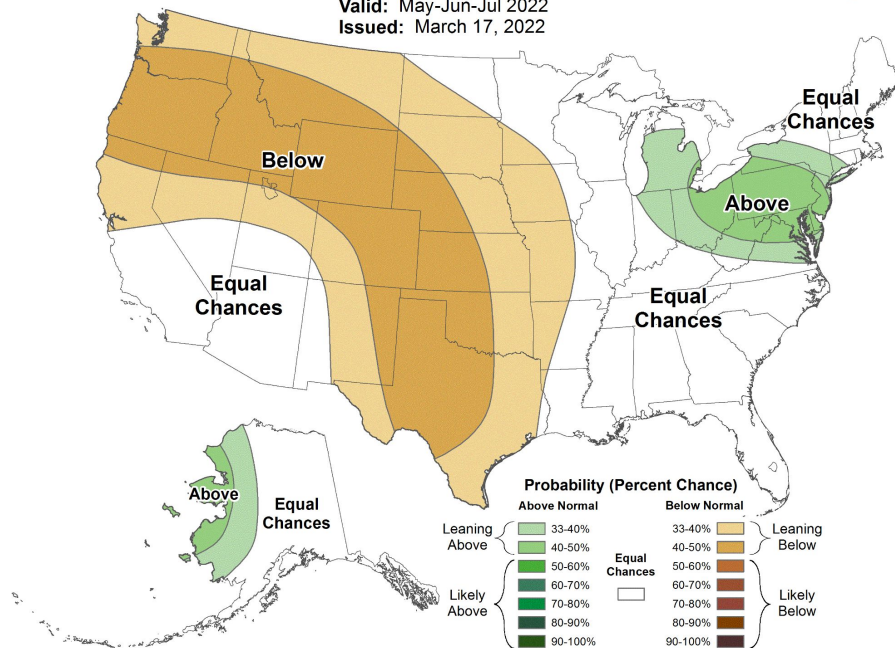
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2022
Issued: March 17, 2022



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2022
Issued: March 17, 2022



The three month outlook for May through July favors seasonal temperatures with drier than normal precipitation. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

La Nina Outlook



Mid-March 2022 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly

Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C

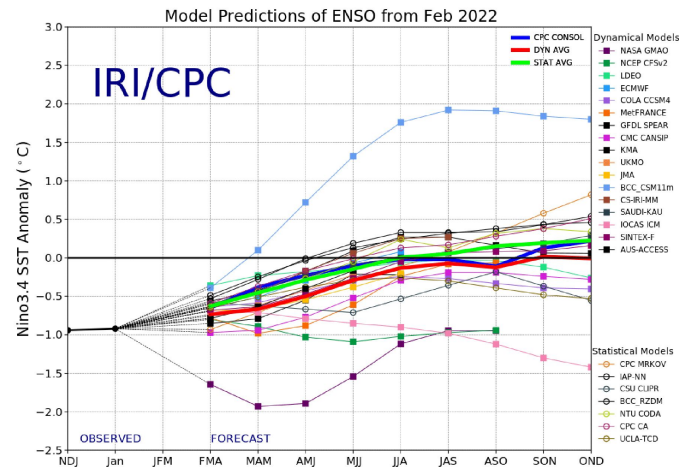
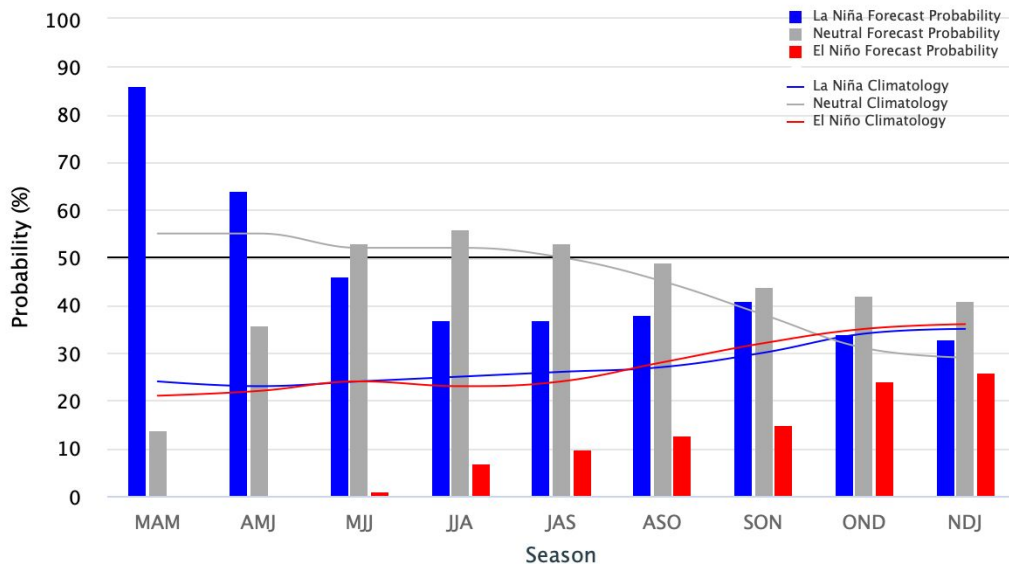


Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N - 5°S , 120°W - 170°W). Figure updated 18 February 2022.

A La Nina Advisory remains in effect for this spring and gradually weakening in the summer.

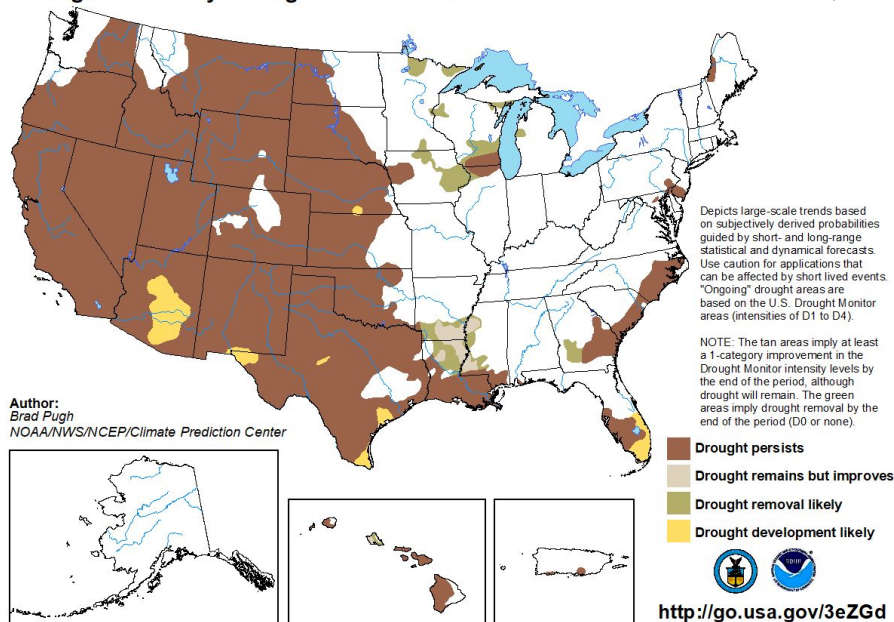
<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook



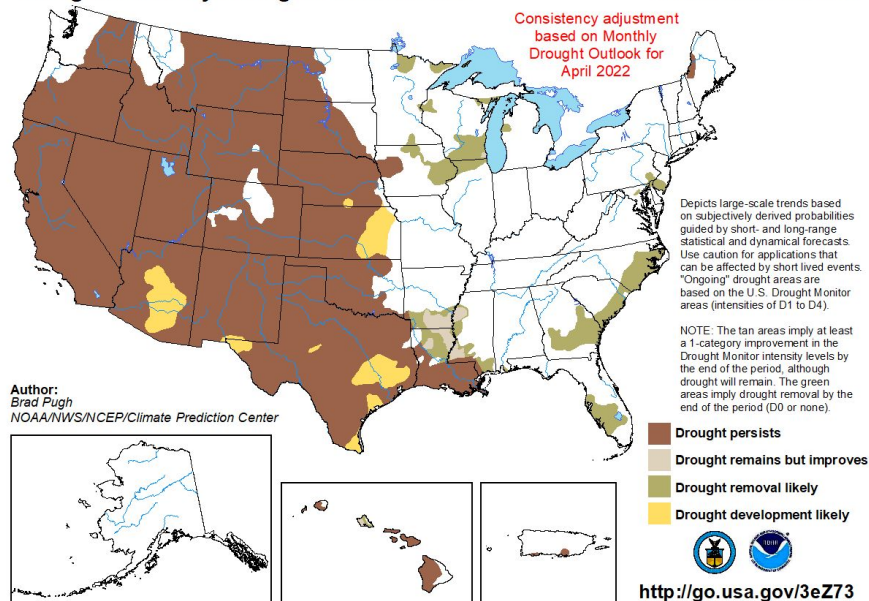
U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 2022
Released March 31, 2022



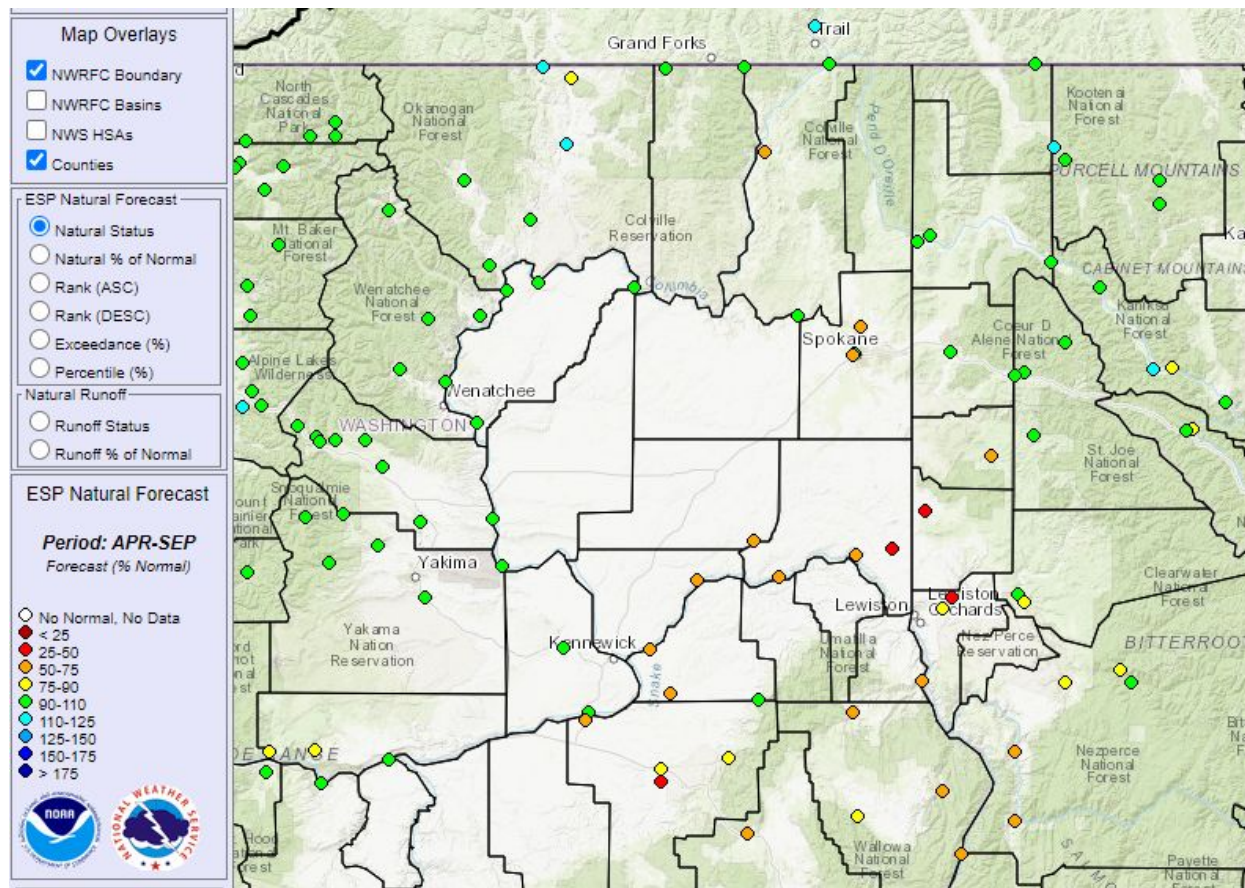
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 1 - June 30, 2022
Released March 31, 2022



The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook shows drought conditions to persist across much of the Inland Northwest with little to no improvements suggested. <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>


<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>



Drought Summary

- Drought expanded in eastern WA and abnormally dry conditions increased in north Idaho.
- Areas of Extreme (D3) Drought found in the Columbia basin and Severe (D2) Drought span across much of in eastern Washington into the souther Idaho Panhandle.
- Mountain snowpack reached its peak and is below normal for the season. Stream flows are near normal in many areas, except parts of southeast Washington and the southern Panhandle.
- The Seasonal Outlook leans seasonal temperatures and below normal precipitation for May through July with drought conditions persisting in the months to come.
- Please report any drought conditions or impacts to NWS Spokane at nws.spokane@noaa.gov or through the National Drought Mitigation Center at <https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/>

Drought Related Web Sites



U.S. Drought Portal: www.drought.gov

US Drought Monitor: www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Western Region Climate Center: [/www.wrcc.dri.edu](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu)

Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Interagency Coordination Center: www.nifc.gov

USGS Streamflows: www.waterwatch.usgs.gov

NWS Water Supply Forecasts: www.nwrfc.noaa.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers: www.usace.army.mil

NRCS Water Supply Forecasts: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources: www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Climate Office: www.uidaho.edu/extension/climate-services

Washington Department of Ecology: www.ecology.wa.gov

Washington Climate Office: www.climate.washington.edu

NWS Spokane: www.weather.gov/Spokane